



WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: CLEAR

COUNTY: ONEIDA

YEAR: 2005

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Clear Lake, Oneida County (T39N, R07E, S16), from April 18 through June 1, 2005, to determine the health of its fishery. The survey was designed to take a comprehensive look at the lake's fishery. Clear Lake is a deep, soft-water seepage lake with chiefly sand substrate and significant areas of gravel and rubble. Clear Lake has a moderate-density walleye population. It has a surface area of 846 acres, 13.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 95 feet.

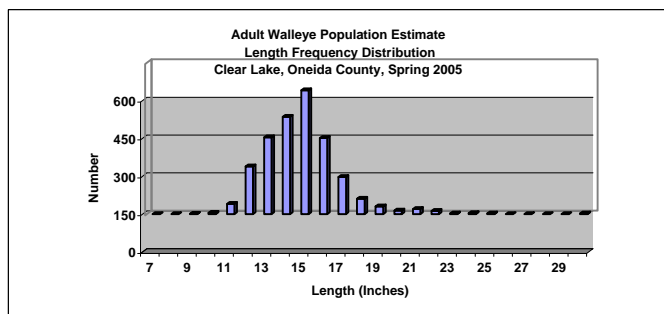


Figure 1. Length frequency distribution of 2010 adult\* walleye estimated to be in Clear Lake, Oneida County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches long.

### Smallmouth Bass

We also completed a mark-recapture survey of Clear Lake's smallmouth bass population\* from April 18 through June 1, 2005. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 526 smallmouth bass through May 31st. Two electro-fishing crews captured 433 smallmouth bass on June 1st. Approximately 10% (44 of 433) of those smallmouth had been marked in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that 4987 smallmouth bass (5.9/acre), 8-inches or larger, inhabited Clear Lake. Roughly 10% (515 of 4987) of those smallmouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest smallmouth we captured was 19.2 inches long.

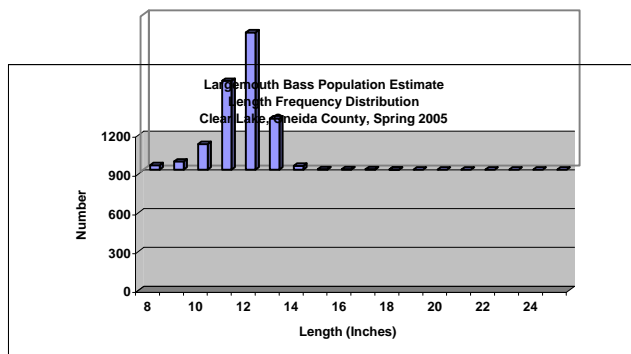


Figure 3. Length frequency distribution of 2492 largemouth bass  $\geq 8$ " estimated to be in Clear Lake, Oneida County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

\* Note: All values given above are for largemouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

### Walleye

We conducted a mark-recapture survey of Clear Lake's adult\* walleye population from April 18-26, 2005. We captured and marked (fin clipped) 1092 adult walleye in nine days of fyke netting. Two crews sampled Clear Lake with electro-fishing boats on April 26th and captured 142 adult walleye. Approximately 54% (77) of those walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting.

Based on those results, we estimated that Clear Lake was populated by 2010 adult walleye (2.4/acre). Approximately 54% (1086 of 2010) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger. The largest walleye we captured was a 30.2-inch female.

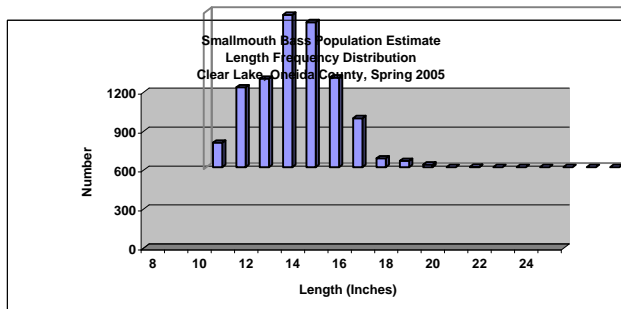


Figure 2. Length frequency distribution of 4987 smallmouth bass  $\geq 8$ " estimated to be in Clear Lake, Oneida County, based on a spring 2005 survey.

\* Note: All values given above are for smallmouth bass 8 inches long or larger.

### Largemouth Bass

We also estimated the abundance of largemouth bass, 8-inches or larger, during a mark-recapture survey of Clear Lake. We captured and fin clipped 356 largemouth bass through May 31st. Two electro-fishing crews captured 211 largemouth bass on June 1st. Nearly 14% (29 of 211) of those largemouth had been fin clipped in previous sampling.

From those results, we estimated that Clear Lake's largemouth bass population\* numbered 2492 (2.9/acre). Approximately 2% (46 of 2492) of those largemouth were 14 inches long or larger. The biggest largemouth we captured was 18 inches long.

## Northern Pike

We captured only seven small adult\* northern pike in fyke nets fished in Clear Lake from April 18-26, 2005. All adult northern pike we captured were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike we captured was a 17.4-inch male.

\* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex  $\geq 12$  inches long.

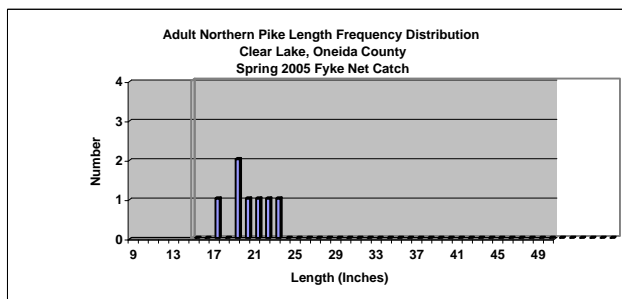


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of 7 adult\* northern pike captured in fyke nets during a fisheries survey of Clear Lake, Oneida County, in spring 2005.

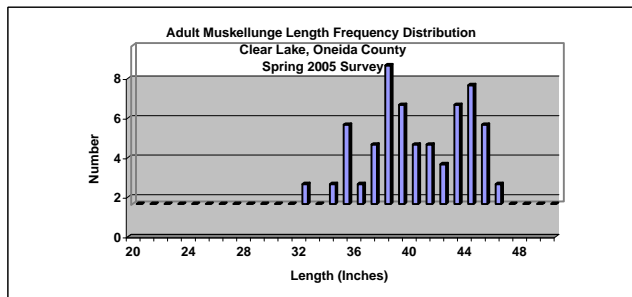


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of 46 adult\* muskellunge captured during a fisheries survey of Clear Lake, Oneida County, in spring 2005.

## Muskellunge

We captured 46 adult\* muskellunge during our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Clear Lake. Nearly 98% of the adult muskellunge (45 of 46) we captured were 34 inches long or larger. Over half the muskellunge (24 of 46) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge we captured was a 46.5-inch female.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex  $\geq 20$  inches long.

## Other Species

We captured nine species of fish in our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Clear Lake in addition to the game fish mentioned above. Bluegill, rock bass and yellow perch were common in our fyke net catches. We also caught black crappie, creek chub, lake herring (cisco), pumpkinseed, white sucker and yellow bullhead. Young-of-year walleye will be sampled in fall 2005. Additional sampling with fyke nets is planned for spring 2006 to capture muskellunge and complete a population estimate.

We are also conducting a creel (angler harvest) survey on Clear Lake this year. Creel clerk John Davis will count and interview anglers and examine their catch throughout the 2005 open-water fishing season.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Clear Lake, Oneida County, 2005

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	15 inches
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	None 5 in total	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	50 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Clear Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2006. If you are interested in a summary of the creel survey or want an update on this year's fyke netting and electro-fishing survey results, contact:

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